

European Penitentiary Training Academies

PROTOCOL OF ENGAGEMENT

This protocol of engagement defines the roles and responsibilities of partners joining the network of European Penitentiary Training Academies (EPTA). EPTA is an informal network with no legal status.

EPTA aims at developing at European level a cooperation to promote and enhance initial and continuous training of correctional staff, both in pre-trial detention and prison, as well as in the community.

In accordance with recommendations developed by the Council of Europe, EPTA supports that staff of prison services contribute largely to public safety through the safe, secure and humane management of (remand) prisoners and the provision of opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration. Prison staff should function within the context of high professional ethics, managing (remand) prisoners humanely and with respect for their human dignity.

Sharing of knowledge and good practices between the EPTA members is essential for achieving the aims of the network and for the enhancement of the professionalism and public image of correctional staff.

Organization:

The Presidency of EPTA rotates every year. The EPTA president is chosen at the annual conference and is in function during a full calendar year. The main responsibility of the President is the organisation of the Annual EPTA conference.

The Secretariat of EPTA is entrusted to the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris). The main functions of the Secretariat are administration and communication.

The EPTA Steering Committee consists of four EPTA members, the President and EuroPris. The Steering Committee is elected every 3 years and functions for 3 calendar years. Steering Committee members can be re-elected for a second term.

Objectives:

- 1) To promote exchanges of knowledge, contents, programmes and good practices;
- 2) To promote cross-border exchange of staff and trainers for training purposes;
- 3) To facilitate direct communication between the EPTA members.

Methodologies

Objectives will be achieved by means of:

- Annual EPTA conference
- Organisation of / participating in (joint) seminars/workshops;
- Research activities and publications;
- Exchange of correctional staff, students and trainers;
- Working groups to develop and exchange knowledge on specific correctional topics;
- Effective digital communication tools (website and database);
- Cooperation with other relevant network organisations.

Member commitment

By signing the Protocol, the Training Academy agrees:

- To actively contribute to the development and management of EPTA;
- To actively define, develop and support the EPTA initiatives;
- To actively participate in an open sharing of knowledge, training contents, practices and methodologies;

Membership

The members of EPTA are Penitentiary Training Academies from the countries that are members of the Council of Europe. This could be the central national Training Academy or a number of decentralized Training Academies within a jurisdiction.

A European Penitentiary Training Academy can apply for membership from the EPTA Secretariat. In order to become a member of EPTA this Protocol of Engagement needs to be signed.

Membership can be terminated by providing written notice of the withdrawal.

Place & Date

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Name, position, organisation / stamp